

have a very large work family and a man I considered the father of that family passed away April 19.

J. Paul Russell was a visionary, not only in the textile industry but as a community leader as well. With Mr. Russell's passing, Montgomery County has lost a true legend and one of its most impassioned leaders.

Mr. Russell had a personal interest in all his employees. He treated all people with respect. He knew the names of their children and grandchildren. I worked closely with his son Charles during my time at the mill, and Charles treated people the same way. It is why people chose to work at the Mills for 20 or 30 years.

It was this type of determination and commitment that helped our communities prosper, and that we miss so much now that so much of the textile industry is gone.

Mr. Russell was part of the "Greatest Generation" and he had that entrepreneurial spirit. The textile industry was just one of his many contributions to our community. He was instrumental in bringing the county airport to Star and the hospital to Troy.

During those years, so many of us here in Montgomery County relied on the Russell family for our livelihood. For a period of many years, the Mill employed 800 people from our community. But it wasn't just jobs that the Russell family provided, it was community leadership. They didn't just live in our communities—they were our county commissioners, Boy Scout leaders, served on town board—much of which Mr. Russell did himself.

There were and are Mr. Russell's in every community across our District. We all know how our communities have been affected by the loss of the textile industry. It was not only the loss of jobs which we still struggle to replace, but it was the loss of leadership as well. These families provided so much leadership in our community, and it was all gone so quickly.

One of the things I will always remember about J. Paul Russell was his spirit. He was an amazing person, one that attacked life with gusto, not just in his work but when he was having fun as well. He lived his life to the fullest.

This is a chance for me to honor, not only Mr. Russell and his family for their contributions, but to all of those people who make a difference in our community.

Those special people are scattered throughout our District. They spend their time doing things they know will better their community and make a difference in the lives of the people around them. It is the best legacy we can hope to leave. It is the legacy that J. Paul Russell has left. Mr. Russell will dearly be missed by his family, friends, and community, and his contributions made to our community.

PROFESSOR CHARLES E. DIRKS

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 2009*

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to my good friend Professor Charles Dirks, on the occasion of his retirement from Los Angeles Mission College. I have had the pleasure of working with him on important issues in our community for more

than two decades and know firsthand of his many accomplishments.

Professor Dirks comes from a long line lineage of community activists, a lineage that has helped fuel his tireless fight for Southwest College, Mission College and the entire Los Angeles school system.

Upon graduating from Occidental College, Professor Dirks got an invitation from R. Sargent Shriver, the Director of the Peace Corps to join "Ghana One" and teach in the very first Peace Corps group. During this time, he built two schools in Ghana and helped build the first public library in Liberia. He also set up community development training programs for the Peace Corps in Puerto Rico and helped build flood control dams in Kenya. This experience led to his lifelong mission of rebuilding and working in the Los Angeles education community's areas of need.

By joining the community college district, and becoming the Faculty Guild President, Professor Dirks helped erect permanent buildings in the north-east San Fernando Valley, where a college was most needed. A long time volunteer in politics, he used his experience as a co-campaign coordinator for Bobby Kennedy to lobby then-city councilman Tom Bradley on getting permanent structures on the Southwest College campus.

Professor Dirks knows that "it takes a village" and over the years he has received numerous accolades and great support from his community. He is deserving of commendation for his tireless campaign to secure adequate higher education in the northeast San Fernando Valley. With a combination of union backing and political tenacity, Professor Dirks was able to secure a budget for Mission College from then Governor Deukmajian. As one of the founding faculty members of Mission College, he was instrumental in organizing the faculty into a union and putting together support for a permanent site and buildings. The Chancellor and both the California State Senate and Assembly have named Professor Dirks "The Faculty Father of Mission College."

Madam Speaker and distinguished colleagues, I ask you to join me in saluting Professor Dirks for his impressive career and dedication to the people of the San Fernando Valley, and to congratulate him on the occasion of his retirement.

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

**HON. JOHN LEWIS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 2009*

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in proud support of H. Res. 931, a resolution recognizing National Foster Care Month. I thank my friend and colleague on the Ways and Means Committee, Chairman McDermott, for sponsoring this important resolution.

During National Foster Care Month, we pay tribute to the half million children presently in the child welfare system and the many others in the network—mentors, volunteers, friends, extended families, and organizations who fill in the gaps in Federal and State coverage to help these young people find their way.

In Georgia, there are thousands of children living in foster care. These young people—of

all race, ages, and backgrounds—were victims of neglect and abuse. Madam Speaker, as parents we know that children require stability and permanency to thrive. Love and security help the development of healthy and confident young adults. Sadly, due to circumstances beyond their control, foster children are uprooted from their homes and represent the one of largest constituencies of displaced people in the United States. In fact, numerous studies show the increased difficulties foster children must overcome, especially the lack of support for foster care youth as they transition to adulthood and independence.

Child welfare services have a shared goal to find safe, stable, and loving homes for these young people. Unfortunately, this dream is not always realized. Last year, Congress passed and the President signed the Fostering Connections to Success Act. This legislation was an important step in improving the nation's child welfare system, but more can be done. I look forward to continuing to work with my friends and colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support to improve the experiences of those young people living in and preparing to exit foster care.

Madam Speaker, each and every young person has a right to a childhood. During National Foster Care Month, I hope that communities around the country really come together and think of ways to improve the lives of young people in the child welfare system.

#### A PROCLAMATION HONORING STAFF SERGEANT JOSEPH SOLVEY FOR RECEIVING THE SILVER STAR MEDAL CITATION FOR GALLANTRY IN ACTION

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 2009*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Staff Sergeant Solvey was assigned as a Private First Class to Infantry Company E, 104th Infantry Regiment, US Army; and

Whereas, Staff Sergeant Solvey was involved in a morning attack near Bettborn, Luxembourg on December 22, 1944; and

Whereas, Staff Sergeant Solvey refused an evacuation order and, though injured, put himself at substantial personal risk to eliminate a German tank threatening to break the American position; and

Whereas, Staff Sergeant Solvey enabled his company to accomplish its objective by moving in the face of fire and showing great personal courage and valor; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Staff Sergeant Solvey on winning the Silver Star for gallantry in action. We recognize the tremendous sacrifice, determination, and courage that he displayed that day in December 1944, and all the days of his service to the United States Army.